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03560.002754

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: Frank E. Werner
TAKAYUKI KATO)
: Group Art Unit: 3652
Application No.: 09/803,973)
:
Filed: March 13, 2001)
:
For: SHEET-POSITION DETECTION) November 7, 2002
: DEVICE AND IMAGE FORMING :
: APPARATUS INCLUDING THE)
: SAME :

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GROUP 3600

The Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Official Action dated October 7, 2002,
Applicant elects with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, believed to correspond to
Claims 6-19.

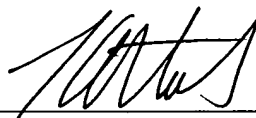
Applicant notes that the Official Action does not expressly refer to Claim 19
but it is believed that Claim 19 is properly combined with Group II.

Applicant respectfully traverse the restriction requirement. In so doing,
Applicant notes that each of the independent claims has at least a commonality of sheet position
detecting means recited therein and it is therefore believed that any searching with respect to the

two identified groups would be substantially overlapping. The most convenient and expeditious means of advancing prosecution is therefore believed to be prosecution in a single application. Accordingly, rejoinder of the application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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